

9 Summer Landscaping Tips for Your Yard

Summer has hit us head-on, and it can be tempting to sit back, relax, and let your yard waste away in the blazing summer heat. But don't give in! Instead, put some extra effort into landscaping this season to keep your yard thriving all year long! A few ways to improve your yard's overall health and success during the hot, dry months include adding water features, installing a sprinkler system, and planting desert flowers such as poppies, marigolds, and sunflowers. Below are nine summer landscaping tips for your yard!

1. Add and Update Water Features

This summer, add more water to your yard--either for decoration or functionality! Water fountains are a great way to add character and vitality to your lawn. If you're worried about your grass drying out, swap out a water fountain for a sprinkler system with a timer to water the grass when it needs it the most. Another idea is to place a decorative fountain or bowl of water on your patio or deck. For more complex water feature installations, hire an experienced landscaping company.

2. Install a Sprinkler System

A landscaper can install a sprinkler system on any level of your yard to provide a direct water source. The most common (but quite bulky) type of sprinkler system is the downspout sprayer. It consists of an attached underground pipe, which is connected to the nozzle and then runs along the ground, spraying water in one direction. Another option for sprinklers is an overhead watering system (OHWS). This type comes with a simple hose spaced apart in the lawn and attached to an overhead water pressure source. If you're unfamiliar with the sprinkler installation process, hire a landscaper in Bountiful to complete the process for you.

3. Plant Desert Flowers

Desert flowers, such as poppies, marigolds, and sunflowers, are native to the desert regions of Arizona--but they have been known to thrive in similar areas, such as Utah. They are quite resilient in the face of summer heat as they have adapted to withstand harsh arid conditions. Desert flowers require little water and thrive in direct sunlight--making them a perfect choice for any Utah homeowner's yard! If you live in an area that experiences long, dry summers, consider adding a few desert flowers to your garden, or hire a landscaper to do the dirty work!

4. Check For and Spray Pests

Now is the time to check for bugs and pests in your yard. Pests are especially common in the summer, and even more so if you live near a lake or body of water. Use organic pesticides to protect your yard and help your garden thrive, or hire a professional landscaper to do so. If

you're uncertain about using pesticides on your lawn, use natural bug repellents such as vegetable oil spray, soap spray, or neem leaf spray.

5. Aerate Your Lawn

Aerating your lawn is a great way to improve its health. This process involves digging small holes into your lawn to allow air and nutrients to reach the soil. Aeration will help promote the growth of healthy, long roots that benefit the overall well-being of your lawn. For large lawns, you may want to hire a landscaper to aerate for you as this process requires detailed knowledge and lots of effort! If you're only working on a small area, try using a manual or electric aerator--available at most local garden stores.

6. Fertilize Your Garden Before Planting

Fertilize your garden with a compost tea before planting in the spring. This will help nitrogen-based plants, such as green beans, tomatoes, and peppers, thrive. Consider applying some fertilizer to vegetables you intend to grow during the summer or add fertilizer to the soil before raking it over your lawn. If you’re not sure what fertilizer would work best for you lawn, hire a landscaper to analyze, inspect, and fertilize your lawn for you.

7. Mow Your Lawn Regularly

One of the most important ways to keep your lawn healthy during the summer is mowing! This process provides for a constant supply of oxygen for your lawn so it can fight off disease and maintain its optimal health. For every two weeks that you skip mowing the lawn in the summer months, expect to see a decline in grass growth. If you struggle with motivation, hire the 12-year-old boy down the street or a professional landscaping company to mow your lawn weekly.

8. Add A Walkway To Your Yard

A walkway is a great addition to any yard in Utah. A well-tended walkway adds character and makes your yard more pleasant to stroll through. This summer, consider adding a stone pathway or brick path to your yard! If you’re not the outdoorsy type, hire a landscaping company (or an ambitious neighbor) to help you out. For those on a budget, you can also try laying down gravel or bark chips instead of pavers.

9. Add Yard Decorations

Decorating your yard with a few simple touches can really add to the overall look of your yard. Fountains and pots are great summer additions to any garden, but remember to consider the weather in your area. If you live in an area with harsh, hot summers, consider hiring a professional landscaper to install a fountain or water feature on your patio or deck. To add warmth and texture to your garden, try adding succulents to containers such as clay pots. If you celebrate the Fourth of July, purchase some seasonal decorations that can be taken down when August rolls around!